

Biology

"Nature, like a careful gardener, thus takes her seeds from a bed of a particular nature and drops them in another equally fitted for them." – On the Origin of Species

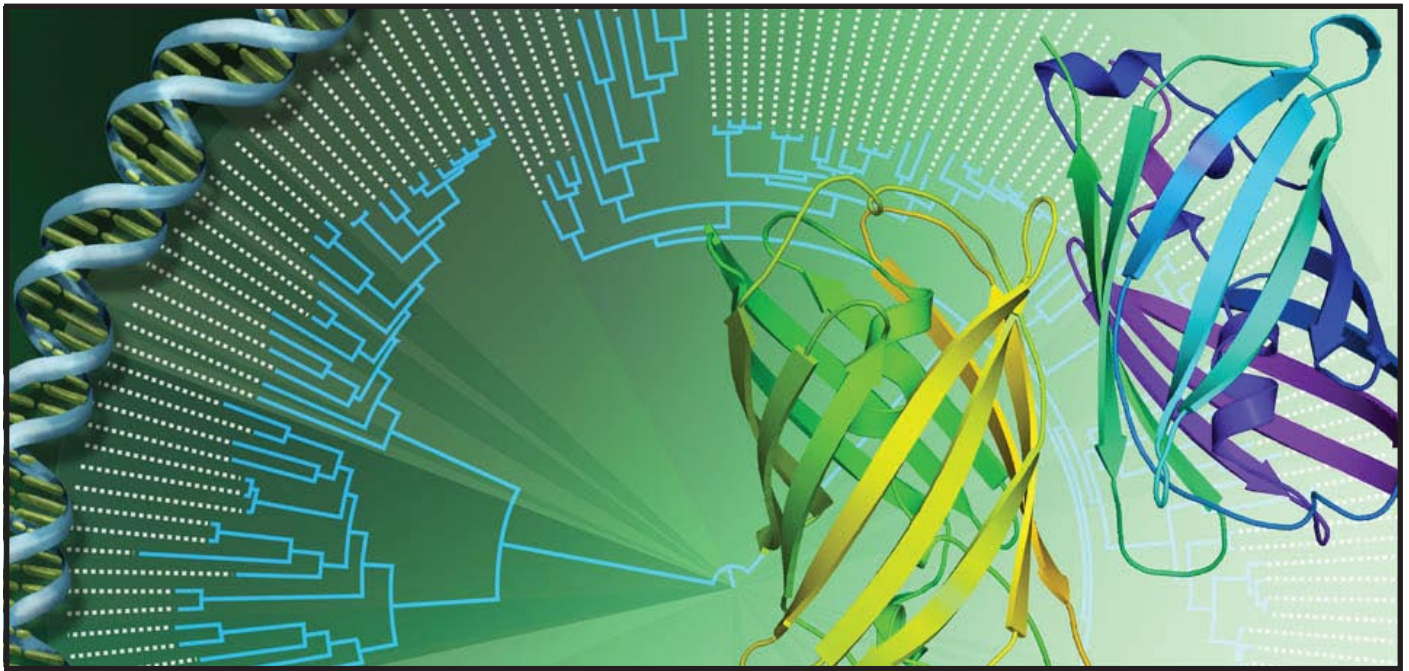


Illustration by Nicolle Rager Fuller, National Science Foundation

Charles Darwin may be the naturalist most responsible for changing how the world views living organisms. His theory that species change over time by means of natural selection powerfully impacted the study of biology and its various subdivisions. But it may surprise people to know that Darwin's evolutionary thesis, "On the Origin of Species," didn't have all the answers, nor did the scientific community as a whole completely agree with him. During the last 150 years, new scientific data resulted in both major and minor modifications of his theory.